

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL J. COPPS**

Re: *Improving Public Safety Communications in the 800 MHz Band; Petitions for Waiver of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania and Reading, Pennsylvania; Petitions for Waiver of Rockdale County, Newton County, City of Covington, Walton County, and Spalding County, Georgia, WT Docket No. 02-55, Memorandum Opinion and Order.*

FCC Announces Supplemental Procedures and Provides Guidance for Completion of 800 MHz Rebanding, WT Docket No. 02-55, Public Notice.

The two items we release today make clear that the Commission remains committed to bringing the 800 MHz rebanding process to a successful close and is more than willing to wade into the gritty details to encourage this result. Our goal has always been, and remains, to resolve the dangerous interference between commercial and public safety users as quickly as possible while still protecting ongoing operations in this band.

The two items we release today make clear that both sides of the table in the ongoing negotiations—industry and public safety—bear equal measures of responsibility to move forward expeditiously. We will not tolerate commercial users remaining in their existing section of the band too long, nor will we grant requests for extension from public safety users that have not acted diligently and expeditiously to move this process along.

I thank Chief Poarch and the Bureau for their hard work on these items.